

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 558

To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Big Spring, Texas, as the George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2011

Mr. NEUGEBAUER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Big Spring, Texas, as the George H. O'Brien, Jr., Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) George H. O'Brien, Jr., was born on Sep-  
6 tember 10, 1926, in Fort Worth, Texas.

7 (2) O'Brien served as a seaman in the United  
8 States Merchant Marine during the period beginning  
9 in December 1944 and ending in May 1946.

1           (3) While attending college at the Texas Tech-  
2           nological College (now known as “Texas Tech Uni-  
3           versity”), O’Brien enlisted in the United States Ma-  
4           rine Corps Reserve in July 1949.

5           (4) After graduating from college in 1950,  
6           O’Brien was ordered to active duty and departed for  
7           Korea in September 1952.

8           (5) Following his discharge from the service,  
9           O’Brien settled in Big Spring, Texas, to raise his  
10          family.

11          (6) O’Brien often participated in volunteer pro-  
12          grams at the Department of Veterans Affairs med-  
13          ical center in Big Spring, Texas.

14          (7) O’Brien was awarded the Medal of Honor,  
15          the highest honor in the United States awarded for  
16          valor to members of the Armed Forces, for his ac-  
17          tions during the Battle for the Hook, on October 27,  
18          1952, in Korea for conspicuous gallantry and intrep-  
19          idity at the risk of his life above and beyond the  
20          call of duty as a rifle platoon commander of Com-  
21          pany H, 3d Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st Marine Divi-  
22          sion (Reinforced).

23          (8) Although wounded several times during in-  
24          tense fighting to regain a vitally important hill posi-  
25          tion on the main line of resistance, then-Second

1 Lieutenant O'Brien bravely led his platoon into  
2 deadly small arms, artillery, and mortar fire against  
3 a numerically superior force.

4 (9) During the battle, O'Brien repeatedly en-  
5 gaged the enemy at close range, killing at least 3  
6 enemy soldiers, eventually securing the position until  
7 relieved.

8 (10) In addition to being awarded the Medal of  
9 Honor during his service in Korea, O'Brien received  
10 2 Purple Heart Medals for wounds received during  
11 combat, the Korean Service Medal with 2 bronze  
12 stars, the United Nations Service Medal, and several  
13 other military honors.

14 (11) O'Brien was awarded the Medal of Honor  
15 personally by President Dwight D. Eisenhower and  
16 is the only Medal of Honor recipient from Big  
17 Spring, Texas.

18 (12) Upon his release from the United States  
19 Marine Corps, O'Brien began a career as a petro-  
20 leum geologist in Texas and served on the Marine  
21 Corps Scholarship Foundation and the Medal of  
22 Honor Society.

23 (13) O'Brien died on March 11, 2005, in Mid-  
24 land, Texas.

1 **SEC. 2. GEORGE H. O'BRIEN, JR., DEPARTMENT OF VET-**  
2 **ERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.**

3 (a) DESIGNATION.—The Department of Veterans Af-  
4 fairs medical center located in Big Spring, Texas, shall  
5 be known and designated as the “George H. O’Brien, Jr.,  
6 Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

7 (b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, reg-  
8 ulation, document, paper, or other record of the United  
9 States to the Department of Veterans Affairs medical cen-  
10 ter referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a  
11 reference to the “George H. O’Brien, Jr., Department of  
12 Veterans Affairs Medical Center”.

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